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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/899,022	07/06/2001	Yukitoshi Takeuchi	35.C15547	3535

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EXAMINER

THOMPSON, JAMES A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2625

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/899,022	TAKEUCHI ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	James A. Thompson	2625	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 31 October 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4,7 and 13 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4,7 and 13 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 06 July 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 31 October has been entered.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments filed 31 October 2007 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Firstly, Fujitaka (USPN 5,541,712) has only been relied upon for its teaching with respect to the exact type of spring used. Fujitaka has not been relied upon at all for any of the details regarding how the torsion coil spring is to be utilized. The remainder of Applicant's arguments are related to the present amendments to the claims. While Examiner agrees that the present amendments to the claims distinguish the claims over the cited prior art, additional prior art has been discovered which renders the claims obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention. The new grounds of rejections are set forth below.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. **Claims 1-4, 7, 13/1-13/4, and 13/7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lee (US Patent 6,233,426 B1) in view of Vandervort (US Patent 4,114,236) and Fujitaka (US Patent 5,541,712).**

Regarding claim 1: Lee discloses a cover of an image reading apparatus (figure 7 and figures 9A-9B of Lee) comprising a cover member (figure 7(86) (and clearly shown in figures 9A and 9B) of

Lee) for covering an original placed on an original stand (figure 9A and column 6, lines 14-17 of Lee); a hinge member (figure 7(84) of Lee – back wall of hinge member also shown as figure 9B(114) of Lee, also see column 5, line 66 to column 6, line 1 of Lee) having one end thereof pivotally supported by a rotary shaft (figure 9B(100) of Lee) on said cover member (column 5, lines 40-54 of Lee), and having the other end thereof mounted on and pivotally supported by said original stand (column 5, lines 33-39 of Lee); and a recessed region with walls (figure 7(32,34,36) of Lee) configured and positioned to eliminate the play between said hinge member and said cover member in a direction parallel to said rotary shaft, thereby making constant the axial positional relation between said hinge member and said cover member by limiting the motion of said cover member in a direction parallel to said rotary shaft (*as can be seen from figure 7 of Lee, the recessed region and walls prevent motion of the cover (102) along a direction parallel to the rotary shaft (100)*), wherein said cover member can be rotated in a direction in which said cover member is opened with respect to said hinge member (figure 9B and column 6, lines 17-26 of Lee).

Lee does not disclose expressly that *one torsion spring* eliminates said play and specifically *biases* said cover member in a direction parallel to said rotary shaft; and that said cover member is specifically *biased* in the direction in which said cover member can be rotated.

Vandervort discloses one spring (figure 1(30) of Vandervort) used to eliminate the play in a particular direction and specifically bias the cover member in a particular direction (column 3, lines 33-45 of Vandervort); and that said cover member is specifically biased in the direction in which said cover member can be rotated (column 3, lines 33-40 of Vandervort).

Lee and Vandervort are combinable because they are from the same field of endeavor, namely the construction of document scanner covers. At the time of the invention it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to use biasing in the direction in which the cover member can be rotated. The motivation for doing so would have been to allow the cover member to remain rigidly positioned without user assistance (column 3, lines 40-45 of Vandervort), thus improving the overall functionality of the system taught by Lee. Further, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to specifically use one spring to eliminate the play between the hinge member and cover member, as taught by Vandervort. In the context of the system of Lee, a spring would be used to eliminate the play in the direction parallel to the direction of the rotary shaft, since physical restraining means (recessed region and walls) are used to limit motion in a direction parallel to the rotary shaft in Lee. Additionally, since a spring would be used to eliminate the play between said hinge member and said cover member in a direction parallel to said rotary shaft, the cover member would be specifically biased in a direction parallel to the rotary shaft due to the force exerted by the spring. The use of a spring

to limit motion between two elements, such as the cover member and the hinge member, is known in the art, such as in the presently cited Vandervort and in the Fujitaka (USPN 5,541,712) reference cited below. Substituting the use of a recessed region and walls with a spring to limit movement would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention, and would have given predictable results. Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Vandervort with Lee.

Lee in view of Vandervort does not disclose expressly that the one spring is specifically a *torsion* spring.

Fujitaka discloses that the spring is a torsion coil spring (column 10, lines 10-11 of Fujitaka).

Lee in view of Vandervort is combinable with Fujitaka because they are from the same field of endeavor, namely scanner covers for document scanners. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to specifically use a torsion coil spring for the spring taught by Vandervort. The suggestion for doing so would have been that a torsion coil spring provides an intense resistance (column 10, lines 10-14 of Fujitaka) and would thus be suitable for use as the spring in the system of Vandervort, as applied to the system of Lee. Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Fujitaka with Lee in view of Vandervort to obtain the invention as specified in claim 1.

Regarding claim 2: Lee discloses that said hinge member is pivotally supported by an area (figure 4(32) of Lee) other than an end portion of said cover member (column 3, lines 24-27 and column 4, lines 48-51 of Lee). Said hinge member is supported by the recessed region (figure 4(32) of Lee) which comprises an opening (figure 4(40) and column 3, lines 24-27 of Lee) into which the starter (figure 4(52) of Lee) is pivotally inserted, and is thus supported (column 4, lines 48-51 of Lee), said starter being a portion of the overall hinge member (column 3, lines 41-44 of Lee). The recessed region is clearly an area other than an end portion of said cover member.

Regarding claim 3: Lee discloses that said cover member has its pivotally movable range restricted with respect to said hinge member (column 4, lines 35-39 of Lee).

Regarding claim 4: Lee discloses that at least one of said cover member and said hinge member is provided with a restricting portion (figure 3(76) of Lee) for restricting the pivotally movable range of said cover member in the direction in which said cover member is opened with respect to said hinge member (column 4, lines 35-39 of Lee).

Further regarding claim 7: Vandervort discloses that said one spring (torsion spring *as per* combination with Fujitaka) is disposed at a center of said hinge member in the direction parallel to said rotary shaft (see figure 1 of Vandervort, where the single spring (30) is centrally positioned and in a direction parallel to the rotary shaft [shown as (25) in figure 2 of Vandervort] of the cover).

Regarding claim 13/1: Lee in view of Vandervort and Fujitaka discloses the cover recited in claim 1, the arguments of which are incorporated herein; and Lee discloses image reading means (figure 4(20 (portion)) of Lee) for reading image information of an original placed on an original stand (column 3, lines 12-18 of Lee). Although the overall disclosure of Lee is largely concerned with the design of the cover of the scanning apparatus, the rest of the scanning apparatus, including image reading means, is clearly part of the overall device (column 3, lines 12-18 of Lee).

Regarding claim 13/2: Lee in view of Vandervort and Fujitaka discloses the cover recited in claim 2, the arguments of which are incorporated herein; and Lee discloses image reading means (figure 4(20 (portion)) of Lee) for reading image information of an original placed on an original stand (column 3, lines 12-18 of Lee). Although the overall disclosure of Lee is largely concerned with the design of the cover of the scanning apparatus, the rest of the scanning apparatus, including image reading means, is clearly part of the overall device (column 3, lines 12-18 of Lee).

Regarding claim 13/3: Lee in view of Vandervort and Fujitaka discloses the cover recited in claim 3, the arguments of which are incorporated herein; and Lee discloses image reading means (figure 4(20 (portion)) of Lee) for reading image information of an original placed on an original stand (column 3, lines 12-18 of Lee). Although the overall disclosure of Lee is largely concerned with the design of the cover of the scanning apparatus, the rest of the scanning apparatus, including image reading means, is clearly part of the overall device (column 3, lines 12-18 of Lee).

Regarding claim 13/4: Lee in view of Vandervort and Fujitaka discloses the cover recited in claim 4, the arguments of which are incorporated herein; and Lee discloses image reading means (figure 4(20 (portion)) of Lee) for reading image information of an original placed on an original stand (column 3, lines 12-18 of Lee). Although the overall disclosure of Lee is largely concerned with the design of the cover of the scanning apparatus, the rest of the scanning apparatus, including image reading means, is clearly part of the overall device (column 3, lines 12-18 of Lee).

Regarding claim 13/7: Lee in view of Vandervort and Fujitaka discloses the cover recited in claim 7, the arguments of which are incorporated herein; and Lee discloses image reading means (figure 4(20 (portion)) of Lee) for reading image information of an original placed on an original stand (column 3, lines 12-18 of Lee). Although the overall disclosure of Lee is largely concerned with the design of the cover of the scanning apparatus, the rest of the scanning apparatus, including image reading means, is clearly part of the overall device (column 3, lines 12-18 of Lee).

Application/Control Number:
09/899,022
Art Unit: 2625

Page 6

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James A. Thompson whose telephone number is 571-272-7441. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30AM-5:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David K. Moore can be reached on 571-272-7437. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


30 December 2007

James A. Thompson
Examiner
Technology Division 2625